

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital multiple function processing machine comprising an image data supply unit, an operation unit, and a printer, wherein

5 said image data supply unit can execute image data transmission processing of generating and transmitting image data representing an image on an original set on said image data supply unit,

10 said operation unit enables a user to perform interrupt copy start command operation and when the user performs the interrupt copy start command operation, transmits interrupt copy start command information, and

said printer can be connected to a computer having a function of transmitting print job data and comprises:

15 print execution means for forming an image on paper based on print data in a predetermined format;

print data storage means for temporarily storing print data to be processed by the print execution means;

20 reception means for receiving print job data representing printed matter of several pages from the connected computer;

print job data processing means for generating from the print job data received by the reception means, the print data concerning the printed matter represented by the print job data 25 for each page and storing the print data in the print data

storage means; and

copy control means capable of executing copy control processing of causing said image data supply unit to start the image data transmission processing, storing print data 5 responsive to image data transmitted by said image data supply unit as the result of the image data transmission processing in the print data storage means, and causing the print execution means to print based on the print data, if the interrupt copy start command information is received while the print job data 10 processing means operates, the copy control means for causing the print job data processing means to interrupt the processing being executed and then starting processing of waiting for an available storage area of a capacity required for executing the copy control processing to be formed in the data storage 15 means, when an available storage area of the capacity required for executing the copy control processing is formed, the copy control means for causing the print execution means to interrupt processing for the print data generated by the print job data processing means and then starting the copy control 20 processing.

2. A digital multiple function processing machine according to claim 1, wherein said operation unit enables the user to perform operation made up of print interrupt command 25 operation and copy start command operation as the interrupt

copy start command operation and when the user performs the print interrupt command operation, transmits print interrupt command information as element information of the interrupt copy start command information and when the user performs the

5 copy start command operation, transmits copy start command information as element information of the interrupt copy start command information, and wherein

when the print interrupt command information is received while the print job data processing means operates, the copy

10 control means of said printer causes the print job data processing means to interrupt the processing being executed, when the copy start command information is received after the print interrupt command information is received, the copy control means starts processing of waiting for an available

15 storage area of the capacity required for executing the copy control processing to be formed in the data storage means, and when an available storage area of the capacity required for executing the copy control processing is formed, the copy control means causes the print execution means to interrupt

20 processing for the print data generated by the print job data processing means and then starts the copy control processing.

3. A digital multiple function processing machine according to claim 1, wherein said operation unit enables the
25 user to set a copy condition and transmits information

containing copy condition information representing the copy condition set by the user as the interrupt copy start command information, and wherein

the copy control means of said printer calculates the
5 capacity of an available storage area required for executing the copy control processing based on the copy condition information contained in the interrupt start command information.

10 4. A printer that can be connected to an image data supply unit that can execute image data transmission processing of generating and transmitting image data representing an image on an original set on the image data supply unit and a computer that can transmit print job data, said printer comprising:

15 print execution means for forming an image on paper based on print data in a predetermined format;

print data storage means for temporarily storing print data to be processed by the print execution means;

20 reception means for receiving print job data representing printed matter of several pages from the connected computer;

print job data processing means for generating from the print job data received by the reception means, the print data concerning the printed matter represented by the print job data
25 for each page and storing the print data in the print data

storage means; and

copy control means capable of executing copy control processing of causing the image data supply unit to start the image data transmission processing, storing print data

5 responsive to image data transmitted by the image data supply unit as the result of the image data transmission processing in the print data storage means, and causing the print execution means to print based on the print data, if the interrupt copy start command information is received while the print job data
10 processing means operates, the copy control means for causing the print job data processing means to interrupt the processing being executed and then starting processing of waiting for an available storage area of a capacity required for executing the copy control processing to be formed in the data storage
15 means, when an available storage area of the capacity required for executing the copy control processing is formed, the copy control means for causing the print execution means to interrupt processing for the print data generated by the print job data processing means and then starting the copy control
20 processing.

5. A printer according to claim 4, wherein the interrupt copy start command information is information made up of print interrupt command information and copy start command information, and wherein
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when the print interrupt command information is received while the print job data processing means operates, the copy control means causes the print job data processing means to interrupt the processing being executed, when the copy start 5 command information is received after the print interrupt command information is received, the copy control means starts processing of waiting for an available storage area of the capacity required for executing the copy control processing to be formed in the data storage means, and when an available 10 storage area of the capacity required for executing the copy control processing is formed, the copy control means causes the print execution means to interrupt processing for the print data generated by the print job data processing means and then starts the copy control processing.

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6. A printer according to claim 4, wherein the interrupt start command information is information containing copy condition information representing a copy condition, and wherein

20 the copy control means calculates the capacity of an available storage area required for executing the copy control processing based on the copy condition information contained in the interrupt start command information.

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